

One of the most fascinating facts to come out of the Senate Labor Committee's hearings on vocational education, was that Malaysia has replicated our Tech Prep model. Tech Prep was created in this country and we have many model Tech Prep programs, but not as many as we should have. Malaysia realized Tech Prep was a key answer to improving their skilled workforce and they have put the resources behind it to make it very successful.

The 1998 vocational education reauthorization strengthens the Tech Prep program by emphasizing the importance of the business community as a partner with the education sector.

The United States is the most productive country in the world, but we are losing our edge to other industrialized nations such as Japan and Germany as well as other rapidly developing countries such as Taiwan, Korea, and China.

Over the past 25 years, the standard of living for those Americans without at least a four year postsecondary degree has plunged. In the next decade, we are in danger of being surpassed as the world's foremost economic power if we don't begin to redefine our priorities at the national, state, and local levels.

Our international competitors have been leaders in making the important connection between education and work.

Last year, a report released by the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, a report which I requested as part of the 1990 vocational education reauthorization, highlighted the importance of a cohesive partnership between educators and employers. Employers are active participants in the governance of work-related education and training in Australia, Great Britain, France, and Germany.

Another significant finding of the report was that European nations, such as the Netherlands and Denmark, are attempting to develop a technical education system that can serve as either a bridge to additional vocational training or pursuing college level courses.

This reauthorization package emphasizes the important balance between a strong academic background and a vocational and technical education system that reflects today's global economy.

The 1998 reauthorization also requires the states and local communities to set-up an accountability system which will give us a visual picture of how states and local communities are implementing vocational and technical education programs. Most importantly, how these programs are impacting vocational and technical education students.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Senate Labor Committee and the staff, especially the Congressional Research Staff and the legislative counsel staff who have all put in countless hours on this bill which is an excellent foundation for the 21st century workforce.

I thank my colleagues on the Senate Labor Committee and the staff, especially the Congressional Research Staff and the legislative counsel staff who all put in countless hours on this bill which is an excellent foundation for the 21st century workforce. I also commend the members of my committee, certainly, but also the Members of the House. We are bringing this to a close just at the end of the session. For a long period of time, it looked like we would not be here, but we are. I thank Chairman GOODLING, in particular, and Congressman BUCK MCKEON for their tremendous help in bringing this to fruition.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I strongly support this reauthorization of the Vocational Education Act, the Carl Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Amendments of 1998. This bill, along with the Workforce Investment Act passed earlier this year, are important steps to improve the quality of the nation's workforce. Well-educated and well-trained workers are essential for the nation's future. As students prepare to enter the workforce, they should have a variety of choices, and this bill gives it to them.

It encourages more effective integration of academic skills and job skills. It helps school districts form partnerships with community colleges, area technical schools, and businesses of all sizes to combine quality academic instruction with real-world work experiences. These partnerships will provide internships, apprenticeships, and practical job experience that will teach students about many difficult aspects of the world of work.

It also encourages schools to use state-of-the-art techniques and equipment in teaching, so that students are offered challenging courses, and so that graduates can continue their education or enter the workforce better prepared for good careers.

States are also guaranteed a greater flexibility in providing funds to local schools to improve their vocational and technical education programs.

The Perkins Act has had a highly positive effect on the quality of vocational education across the nation. Its goal is to encourage innovation and ensure fairer opportunities for all students—especially those who have historically been denied access to high-level careers, and have suffered the most from the inequities in the job market.

The bill also recognizes the importance of preparing students and trainees for non-traditional employment. Supporting these underserved populations is increasingly important if we are to meet the demands of the 21st Century economy.

Finally, this legislation retains our commitment to the important role of gender equity in vocational education. Gender equity issues must continue to be part of every state's priority. Every student should be convinced that good

careers are not out of reach because of such discrimination. Vocational education must expand opportunities, not restrict them.

Overall, this legislation enables the nation to move forward in all of these important ways. I urge the Senate to support it, and I'm confident it will be effective in bringing us closer to the goals we share for vocational education in the years ahead.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1853, the vocational education bill. I further ask that the conference report be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the conference report appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The conference report was agreed to.

REDESIGNATING THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING THE "ENEY, CHESTNUT, GIBSON MEMORIAL BUILDING"

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration S. Con. Res. 120, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 120) to redesignate the United States Capitol Police headquarters building located at 119 D Street, Northeast, Washington, DC, as the "Eney, Chestnut, Gibson Memorial Building."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 120) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 120

Whereas the United States Capitol Police force has protected the Capitol and upheld the beacon of democracy in America;

Whereas 3 officers of the United States Capitol Police have lost their lives in the line of duty;

Whereas Sgt. Christopher Eney was killed on August 24, 1984, during a training exercise;

Whereas officer Jacob "J.J." Chestnut was killed on July 24, 1998, while guarding his post at the Capitol; and

Whereas Detective John Gibson was killed on July 24, 1998, while protecting the lives of

visitors, staff, and the Office of the Majority Whip of the House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the United States Capitol Police headquarters building located at 119 D Street, Northeast, Washington, D.C., shall be known and designated as the "Eney, Chestnut, Gibson Memorial Building".

VITIATION OF PASSAGE OF S. 777

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent that Senate passage of S. 777 be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill will be returned to the calendar.

NONCITIZEN BENEFIT CLARIFICATION AND OTHER TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4558, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4558) to make technical amendments to clarify the provision of benefits for noncitizens, and to improve the provision of unemployment insurance, child support, and supplemental security income benefits.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, the bill now before the Senate contains seven technical amendments. Although each provision may seem minor, every one serves a larger, more important purpose. Also, as I will describe, the legislation is time sensitive, which is why the Senate is considering this bill in an expedited manner. Let me also note that the bill has bipartisan support and passed the House on a voice vote on September 23rd. Also, the small cost of the bill is fully paid for.

The first provision would ensure that every elderly or disabled noncitizen dependent on SSI and Medicaid benefits when welfare reform was enacted in August 1996 will remain eligible. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 grandfathered most legal aliens receiving SSI. However, at that time, a small number—about 22,000—received only a temporary extension, until September 30, 1998, pending a study of their legal status. That issue has been largely resolved, and this provision would complete the work of BBA.

The bill also makes a number of common sense changes that encourage work and personal responsibility in several programs under the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee.

Finally, I would like to highlight an important humanitarian provision in this legislation. Many members are undoubtedly aware of the Make-A-Wish

Foundation and similar organizations that help fulfill the dreams of children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses. For example, the child with cancer who gets a trip to Disney World. Yet, a sick child could lose SSI and Medicaid benefits if the cash value of their "wish" exceed current law income limits. This bill would fix that problem.

I urge the support of all Members of this legislation.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent the bill be considered read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4558) was deemed read the third time and passed.

CRIME IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on the bill (S. 2022) to provide for the improvement of interstate criminal justice identification, information, communications, and forensics.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2022) entitled "An Act to provide for the improvement of interstate criminal justice identification, information, communications, and forensics", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Table of contents.

TITLE I—CRIME IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. State grant program for criminal justice identification, information, and communication.

TITLE II—NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY ACCESS AND CHILD PROTECTION ACT

Sec. 201. Short title.

Subtitle A—Exchange of Criminal History Records for Noncriminal Justice Purposes

Sec. 211. Short title.

Sec. 212. Findings.

Sec. 213. Definitions.

Sec. 214. Enactment and consent of the United States.

Sec. 215. Effect on other laws.

Sec. 216. Enforcement and implementation.

Sec. 217. National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact.

OVERVIEW

ARTICLE I—DEFINITIONS

ARTICLE II—PURPOSES

ARTICLE III—RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPACT PARTIES

ARTICLE IV—AUTHORIZED RECORD DISCLOSURES

ARTICLE V—RECORD REQUEST PROCEDURES

ARTICLE VI—ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPACT COUNCIL

ARTICLE VII—RATIFICATION OF COMPACT

ARTICLE VIII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE IX—RENUNCIATION

ARTICLE X—SEVERABILITY

ARTICLE XI—ADJUDICATION OF DISPUTES

Subtitle B—Volunteers for Children Act

Sec. 221. Short title.

Sec. 222. Facilitation of fingerprint checks.

TITLE I—CRIME IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Crime Identification Technology Act of 1998".

SEC. 102. STATE GRANT PROGRAM FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE IDENTIFICATION, INFORMATION, AND COMMUNICATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to the availability of amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Office of Justice Programs relying principally on the expertise of the Bureau of Justice Statistics shall make a grant to each State, in a manner consistent with the national criminal history improvement program, which shall be used by the State, in conjunction with units of local government, State and local courts, other States, or combinations thereof, to establish or upgrade an integrated approach to develop information and identification technologies and systems to—

(1) upgrade criminal history and criminal justice record systems, including systems operated by law enforcement agencies and courts;

(2) improve criminal justice identification;

(3) promote compatibility and integration of national, State, and local systems for—

(A) criminal justice purposes;

(B) firearms eligibility determinations;

(C) identification of sexual offenders;

(D) identification of domestic violence offenders; and

(E) background checks for other authorized purposes unrelated to criminal justice; and

(4) capture information for statistical and research purposes to improve the administration of criminal justice.

(b) *USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.*—Grants under this section may be used for programs to establish, develop, update, or upgrade—

(1) State centralized, automated, adult and juvenile criminal history record information systems, including arrest and disposition reporting;

(2) automated fingerprint identification systems that are compatible with standards established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and interoperable with the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(3) finger imaging, live scan, and other automated systems to digitize fingerprints and to communicate prints in a manner that is compatible with standards established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and interoperable with systems operated by States and by the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(4) programs and systems to facilitate full participation in the Interstate Identification Index of the National Crime Information Center;

(5) systems to facilitate full participation in any compact relating to the Interstate Identification Index of the National Crime Information Center;